



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

**AUG 27 2019**

Ref: 19-F-1715

Jeremy Barr  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 73163  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Barr:

This is an interim response to your May 14, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on August 26, 2019 and assigned it case number 19-F-1715. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances that impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. At least one, if not more, of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS), and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 2,948 open requests.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests.

The OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Darrell M. Williams, is available at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto:OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil) to answer any concerns about the foregoing.

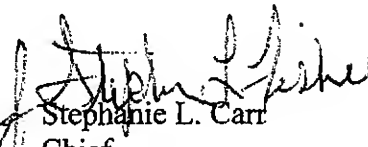
Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

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Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

We regret the delay in responding to your request and appreciate your patience.  
If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact, Ms. Tyra Howard, at [tyra.d.howard.civ@mail.mil](mailto:tyra.d.howard.civ@mail.mil); or (571) 372-0467.

Sincerely,

  
Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated